

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 12. Please add new claims 21-33. Pending claims 12-33 follow.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for storing a plurality of slides in an angular arrangement, the apparatus comprising:

a base member for providing vertical support to the plurality of slides, a top surface of the base member being substantially parallel to a horizontal;

a first support member arranged at a first angle relative to the horizontal; and

a second support member arranged at a second angle relative to the horizontal,

the plurality of slides being angularly stacked relative to the horizontal on the base member and between the first and second support members so that at least the two bottom slides of the plurality of slides are offset and the edges of adjacent slides do not overlap each other.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, the first angle being different than the second angle.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, the first support member being fixed at the first angle.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, the second support member being fixed at the second angle.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, the first support member being adjustable.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, the second support member being adjustable.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, a bottom slide of the plurality of slides being dispensed through a slot defined between one of the support members and the base member.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, the plurality of angularly stacked slides having a fanning arrangement.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a friction reducing member that contacts one or more slides.

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the first angle is an angle of a surface of the first support member that contacts the slides, and the first angle is greater than 90 degrees relative to the horizontal.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the second angle is an angle of a surface of the second support member that contacts the slides, and the second angle is less than 90 degrees relative to the horizontal.
23. (New) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein a gap exists between each slide in the angularly stacked plurality of slides.
24. (New) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein no slide lies flatly upon another slide in the angularly stacked plurality of slides.
25. (New) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein a higher slide in the plurality of slides is arranged at an angle that is steeper than the angle at which a lower slide in the plurality of slides is arranged.
26. (New) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the fanning arrangement results in a series of angled gaps defined by one of the support members and adjacent slides.
27. (New) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the fanning arrangement results in a series of generally triangular gaps defined by one of the support members and adjacent slides.
28. (New) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the first support member extends upwardly from the base, and the second support member extends downwardly towards the base, wherein the slot is defined between the base and the bottom of the second support member.
29. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the second support member supports each slide of the plurality of slides except the bottom slide, wherein the bottom slide is dispensed through the slot.
30. (New) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein each slide is stacked at a different angle.

31. (New) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the first and second angles are angles other than 90 degrees relative to the horizontal.
32. (New) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the first angle is greater than 90 degrees and the second angle is less than 90 degrees.
33. (New) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein only the bottom slide of the plurality of slides is dispensed through the slot.